



## **Arlington Council on Aging**

### **Minutes**

*Date: Thursday April 21, 2022 Time: 6:00 pm*

*Present: Michael Quinn, Kristine Shah, Laura Liscio, Sheila Connerney, Nancy Cox, Mary Hung, Anne Brown, Nancy Feeney, Mahendra Desai*

*Associate members: Karen Nichols, Rick Fentin, Bob Tosi Jr., Marjorie Vanderhill, Ann Fitzgerald*

*Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Liaison: Ray Jones*

***Location: This meeting will be conducted in a Hybrid format. Board members have a choice of attending in person or virtually. Residents are asked to attend virtually via zoom following the rules set forth by the Governor's Executive Order on Remote Participation. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Please call 781-316-3401 or e-mail [KShah@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:KShah@town.arlington.ma.us) for the link to join the virtual meeting which can be accessed by computer with internet access or by telephone for audio access only.***

*Kristine Shah, Executive Director*

*Michael Quinn, Chair*

*Sheila Connerney, Secretary*

*The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.*

1. Call to order 6:00pm
2. Citizen's Open Forum—None.
3. Minutes of the March 2022 meeting for approval. Nancy Cox made a motion to approve the minutes. Nancy Feeney seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Age/Dementia Friendly
  - a. After Town Meeting, Date to be secured to present plan to Select Board. Last call for suggestions/changes to plan.
6. Report of the Chair
  - a. Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group- June 9. They are looking for someone to talk to them about the experience of seniors in Arlington. Volunteers from board appreciated.
  - b. COA Board should have a vice chair.
8. Minuteman Senior Services Report

- a. Minuteman will have a display at Robbins Library in May.
- b. Looking for volunteer rep payees.
- c. There's a proposal before the state to fund the SHINE Program.
- d. Nutrition event June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

9. ASA Liaison Report – None.

10. Old Business—None.

11. New Business –None.

12. Other Community Announcements—Concern that there's not enough visibility for the COA in Arlington.

13. Adjourn. – Marjorie Vanderhill moved to adjourn. Nancy Cox seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

**Next meeting: May 19, 2022**

## **Executive Director's Report**

**Kristine Shah**

### **I. Center Renovation**

- a. The first floor of the Community Center hosted limited classes since April 1. Many of our activities are now being offered in a hybrid format to accommodate all participants. A hybrid highlight so far was when we had over 30 people in person and 14 people on Zoom for our Sing program. Our new (to us) piano was being played and all the voices singing together was a long awaited treat!
- b. Ground floor programming is scheduled to begin Tuesday, April 19, at which point all spaces will be turned over to the town for use.
- c. We have over 140 attendees who have registered for our "Welcome Back Luncheon" scheduled for April 28. Tours will immediately follow the luncheon. The luncheon is sponsored by the ASA and Dot Lansil, a longtime volunteer who passed away in 2021.
- d. May 5 will be an additional Open House Event, including a formal Ribbon cutting at 5:30pm. All board members are welcome to attend.
- e. Staff had a training with My Senior Center, and learned how to use our updated Database system including our scan in cards for all residents

### **II. COA Services Update**

- a. A big thank you to Pat Baillieul for all she did during this tax season. She worked tirelessly to organize our AARP tax preparation sessions each week.

- b. Elderly & Disabled Tax Relief Committee met on March 31 to make application decisions. They awarded over \$12,000 of property tax relief to Arlington residents.
- c. Minuteman Senior Services is moving back in to the building on May 27; Meals on Wheels will begin operating out of the building the following week and congregate dining will begin June 1.
- d. Programs beginning/resuming this spring include a Walking Club at the Res, Cribbage, Bridge, Mahjonn, Pool, Current Events, Computer/Technology Help, Movies, Parkinson's Group, Shakespeare and Garden Club.
- e. Special events in May include a Spring Tea event, a Traffic Safety Discussion with Officer Corey Rateau. In honor of Memorial Day, we are also hosting a Veterans Presentation on May 26. We are also running an Elder Law Workshop.

III. Grants

- a. Arlington EATS Transportation Grant- \$3,500 Received
- b. CDBG FY23 Grant Decisions- ADH grant was increased. Everything else was level-funded except transportation was cut.

IV. ASA Update

V. COA Staff Update—Staff member Dana Whittie passed away, which is a big loss for the COA.